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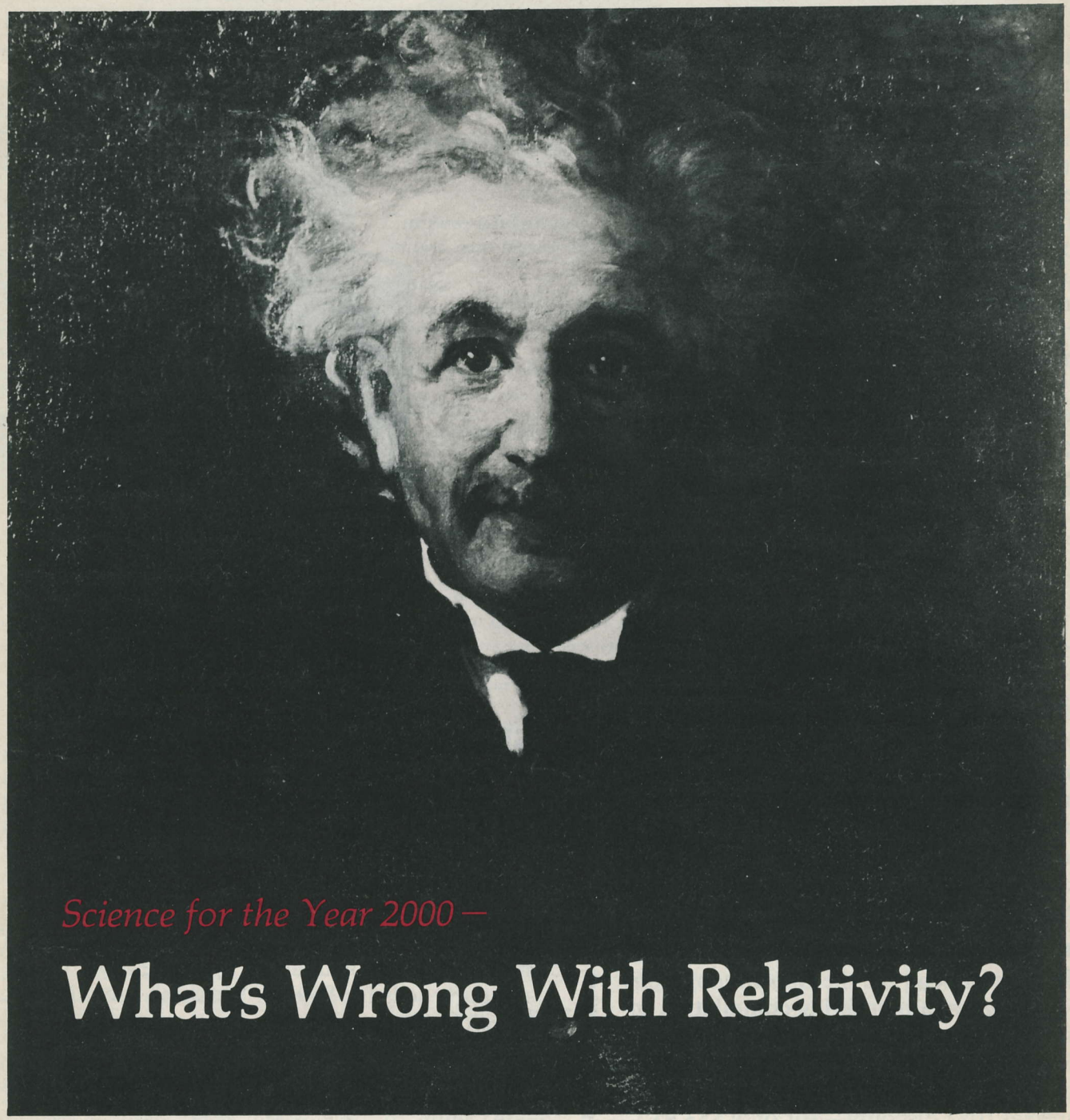

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INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

EDITORIAL

We hear the comment, "I don't seem to read about UFOs in the newspapers very much anymore. I guess there aren't as many UFOs as there used to be."

It is quite true that at present, in this country, there is no "wave" of reports or media excitement about UFOs. There is, nonetheless, a steady flow of UFO reports, both genuinely mysterious and less so. The Center for UFO Studies has many current cases under investigation, as do MUFON and other organizations throughout the world. The difference is that today these investigations generally don't hit the newspapers. And one may well ask, "Why should they?"

There is little that is "new" about present UFO reports, and newspapers want news. As spectacular as some UFOs are, there is a strong element of repetition in them. In a sense, UFOs are becoming something like automobile accidents. Hundreds of those occur each day, yet few make the news; only if they involve very prominent people (or are particularly gory) do we ever see them mentioned.

There is another factor. The public tires of continued mystery. They want answers, not research reports, and the fact is that the simple, exciting "answer" to UFOs (visitors from outer space) has never been established. Instead, while truly fantastic UFO events continue to be reported, this answer now appears too simplistic. It doesn't explain the many complicated, highly involved aspects of the UFO phenomenon that serious research is turning up.

Thus the UFO phenomenon is more, rather than less, of a research problem than ever, and research rarely makes the news. UFOs are becoming far less prominent in the news arena and more so in the research arena.

A body of scientists who are intrigued by the intellectual challenges presented by the continual UFO reports, recognize that we have in the UFO phenomenon a mystery of substance and not merely the result of popular excitement and imagination.

A simple answer has disappeared; a mysterious phenomenon remains: UFO reports from responsible persons from many parts of the world continue to be made. Why?

J. Allen Hynek

CURRENT

Each month we shall list a few current UFO cases under investigation. In a following section we shall present the latest on earlier cases, until the investigation has been carried as far as time and funds permit.

A Submarine UFO

Reports of UFOs arising from a body of water are rare. It is particularly significant that the following case was reported directly to me by the lone witness, who happens to be an acquaintance of many years. He wishes to remain anonymous for the usual obvious reasons but my full taping of his long distance call from Kamloops, British Columbia, leaves no doubt to a listener that he was genuinely bewildered by his experience on Thompson River. Fortunately, we have in Kewlona, B.C., relatively close to Kamloops, an investigator of long standing and experience, Mr. W.K. Allan. He has kindly agreed to investigate and evaluate this case as far as is possible. This case will be followed up in the next issue of Frontiers of Science.

TYPE: CE-I: [DD] + [CE-II]
DATE: May 16, 1981
TIME: 2:30 p.m. PDST
DURATION: 1-3 minutes (?)
WITNESSES: 1
PLACE: Kamloops, British Columbia (Thompson River)

The witness is fishing on a bright, sunny afternoon in May. There are other people on the water at some distance. A small boat has just passed by when a noise "like water being poured into a hot frying pan" is heard. The water in front of the fisherman, about 100 to 150 yards away, suddenly bubbles. Out of the water rises a fifteen-to twenty-foot "typical" flying saucer. Slowly at first, it accelerates as it approaches the witness at a forty-five degree angle, passes directly over him, and then accelerates upward and, "zoom, it is gone."

The witness described the UFO as identical with a disc shown in my book *The UFO Experience* (the single disc high above the trees in

The material in this section has been prepared by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director of the Center for UFO Studies, an international association of scientists and others seriously interested in the UFO phenomenon. Through the cooperation of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and its network of investigators, and of other UFO investigative groups both in the United States and abroad, and through the work of its own investigators, the Center offers the following as its contribution to the responsible reporting of the worldwide UFO phenomenon.

The Center maintains a 24-hour UFO hotline for the exclusive use of U.S. law enforcement agencies, Federal Aviation Agency facilities, planetaria and other formal channels. The Center also maintains a computerized databank (UFOCAT).

For more information about the activities of the Center, communicate directly with Dr. Hynek, P.O. Box 1402, Evanston, Ill. 60204.

the photograph section).

The witness was still in a shocked state when he heard a rain of pellets spattering down, obstensibly from the UFO. Fortunately, he collected a fair amount of the material, which was sent to the Center.

The witness is puzzled as to why this incident was not seen and reported by others, since it occurred in the vicinity of a good-sized Canadian city. Shortly after the incident, he spoke to a hitchhiker along the highway which runs close to the river. The hitchhiker "did not want to get involved."

The absence of corroborating reports is disturbing. Did no one else see this truly unusual event? Or are there reluctant witnesses here, part of the army of the "bewildered silent"? This must be the answer unless we invoke the handy hallucination explanation. However, a hallucination that rains down material from itself might be considered a bit unusual!

Tractor-Chasing Saucer

To get away from the straightforward report format in presenting cases under investigation we quote directly from the original letter received from one of two principal witnesses. A UFO experience, after all, is a human experience, witnessed by real people with human emotions—fright, terror, wonder, curiosity, awe—and this aspect is all too frequently lost in transcribing the event "for the record."

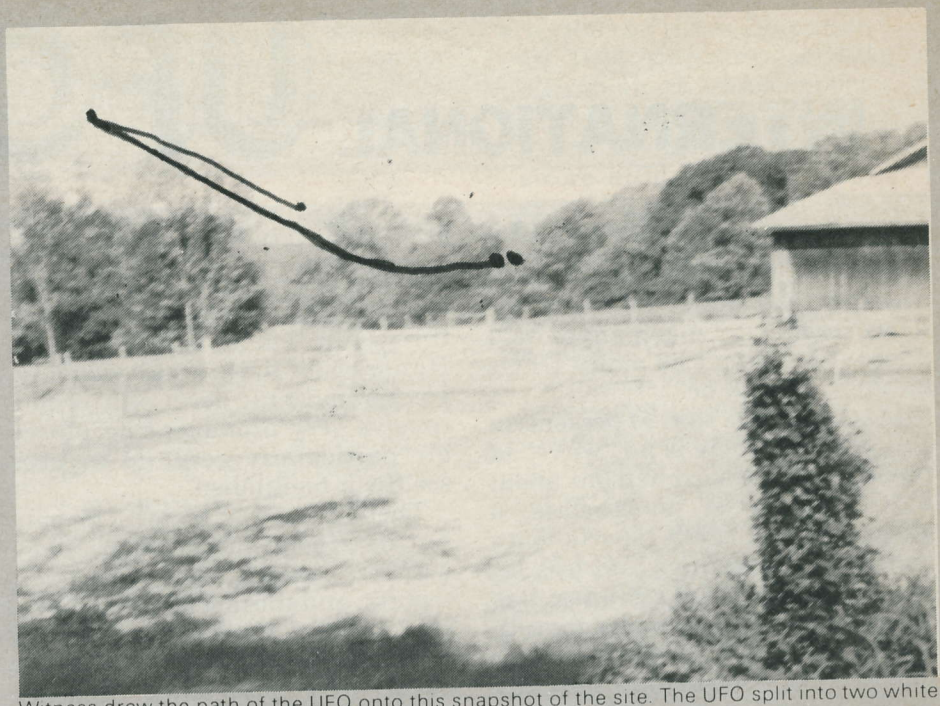
TYPE: CE-II
DATE: October 26, 1980
TIME: 7 p.m. CST
DURATION: 30 minutes
WITNESSES: 2+
PLACE: Greene County, Indiana

"To the Center for UFO Studies:

"My husband and I live on a 255-acre farm in Greene County, Indiana...

"At about 6:45 p.m. Sunday as I was getting the children into the house and unloading the groceries from the car, I noticed a beautiful bright orange star low in the southwestern sky. [Note: Investigation showed that this part of the sky was covered with 'low, purplish clouds' although the rest of the sky was essentially clear. Further, no bright planet was in that section of the sky at the time.] I was in a hurry to get the children settled in to watch the Walt Disney show at 7. Had I not been in such a hurry I might have realized the 'star' looked out of place. It was so pretty and I tried to keep an eye on it while I worked in the kitchen. Then I went out to feed and water the chickens and stopped to stare and marvel at how pretty it was. It crossed my mind that the Star of Bethlehem could not have been more beautiful.

"Back inside at the kitchen window I saw my husband's tractor lights...he was driving right up to the house at breakneck speed. He burst through the door just as Walt Disney came on the TV and said that a flying saucer was chasing him. My first thought was that he had seen the big star and was teasing me, and so I laughed at him. He looked at me like I was crazy. I quickly noticed that he was white as a sheet...he was visibly shaking as he yelled at me to look out the window.



Witness drew the path of the UFO onto this snapshot of the site. The UFO split into two white lights as it approached her husband.

"So I looked. I saw something coming in for a landing in the field behind our barn. I grabbed my coat and ran out to the porch to watch. The 'star' was gone but hovering in the field about two hundred feet away was some kind of aircraft. During the several minutes it sat there [later investigation showed

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

A "UFO" is any anomalous aerial phenomenon whose appearance and/or behavior cannot be ascribed to conventional, natural or man-made sources after study by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original witness(es) may lack.

Abbreviations used in this section follow six categories of UFO reports developed by Dr. J. Allen Hynek:

NL: Nocturnal Light. Any distant anomalous source (usually illuminated) seen in the night sky.

DD: Daylight Disc. Any distant object (often disc-shaped) seen under daylight conditions.

RV: Radar/Visual. UFOs seen simultaneously by vision and radar; good agreement between the two is essential.

CE I: Close Encounter of the First Kind. UFO seen within five hundred feet.

CE II: Close Encounter of the Second Kind. CE I that influences the environment, including physical traces, physiological effects and electromagnetic interferences.

CE III: Close Encounters of the Third Kind. CE I or II associated with creatures ("UFOnauts").

that it actually hovered noiselessly above the ground], my husband was telling me what had happened to him. As he drove the tractor toward the house he felt the sensation that someone was watching him and he turned in his seat to look. An orange object in the sky behind him suddenly dimmed into two lights and was heading toward him at a high rate of speed. He pulled the throttle out all the way and zoomed toward the house.

"While he is telling me this, the object is hovering about twenty feet in the air and was absolutely motionless. When it did start to move it went forward and upward so smoothly that I felt it could have moved in any direction with equal ease. The object passed about twenty feet above the barn, making no sound.

"When it was over the barn roof the sows with baby pigs in the barn began wild grunting and knocking about in their pens [the well-known 'animal effect' observed when the UFO is not visible to the animals]. They settled down immediately after the object cleared the roof.

"The object is now coming very slowly towards the house...my husband has gone back into the house to watch from the front windows and my children are crying, mainly because their parents are so disturbed.

"The object can be described as two full moons spaced about 12 feet apart with a flashing light in back like a lop-sided triangle. Each white light could have been three feet in diameter. The white light was very intense but it didn't light up anything around it. It seemed as if the light was somehow contained within itself.

"The object was at tree-top level now and passed to the right of our security light, but this light didn't reflect off of the object. The lights were all that could be seen but I got the distinct impression that they were connected to something huge. The object made no sound except for a faint whistle as it passed by me. I mean very faint. I did look very closely at the white discs and they reminded me of the facets of a diamond.

"We didn't go public with our sighting but did talk to people close to us. We experienced enough disbelief from family and friends alike to warn us how most people would react...A neighbor did come over and tell us that he saw a lighted object pass over our farm at about

"It was so close I could have counted the lights on the bottom of the object."

where he thought our barn should be. Another neighbor and her teenage daughter and friend were driving home from Bloomington and when they were about twenty miles from here they saw, that same night and about that same time, a lighted object flying very low. They were curious enough about it to pull off the road to look at it. They thought it was a low-flying plane ...but it was so strange that they shut off their car motor to listen to it to help them decide just what it was. When they realized that it wasn't making any sound it kind of spooked them and they got back in the car and left.

"I hope this information is helpful to you...I really felt that someone should know but most people don't want to hear what they can't understand. That's fine for them, but my husband and I need answers, information, and maybe a little support from people who have had similar sightings."

The investigation of this case is proceeding well. We await information from the additional witnesses and measures of distances and times involved.

A sighting like this is no longer news; similar reports from all over the world are legion. Yet because of their failure to fit our own present technological knowledge, they trigger disbelief and apathy rather than curiosity and an eagerness to investigate.

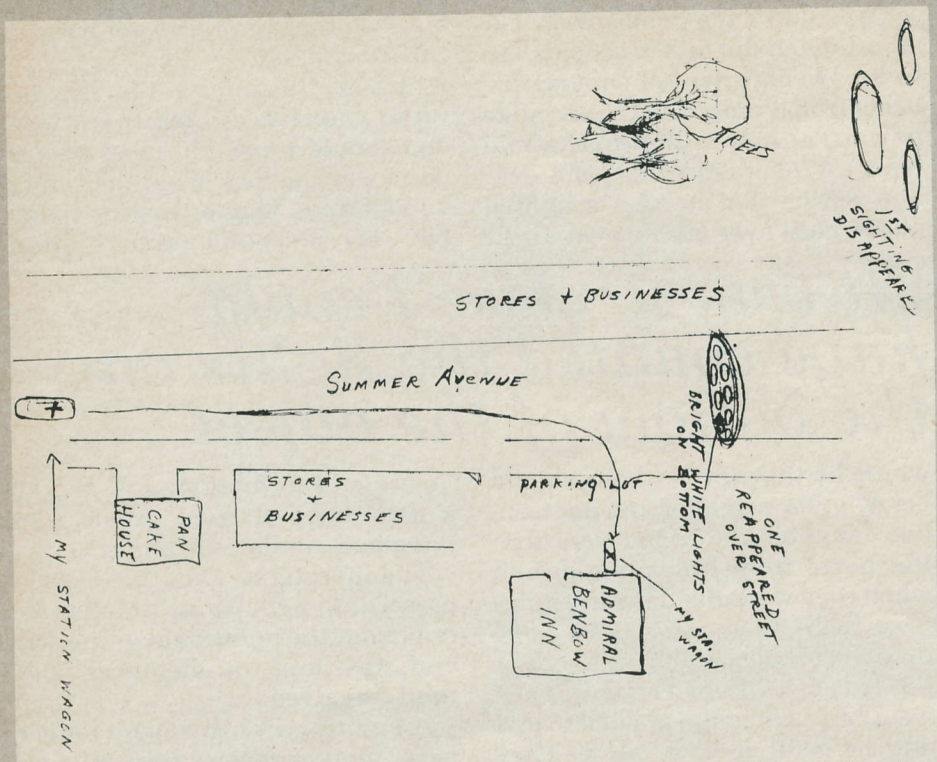
UFOs in a Puff of Smoke

A frequent theme that appears, especially in letters the Center receives but which also is expressed in phone investigations and personal contacts, is the desire to find "someone to talk to," particularly others who have had similar experiences. It seems that the good investigator must play the role of counsellor as well as fact-finder. The plaintive "and maybe a little support from people who have had similar sightings" in the letter above is echoed in the following letter, "I would like very much to correspond with others who have seen UFOs at close range."

TYPE: CE-I
DATE: March 1981
TIME: 4:40 a.m.
DURATION: 5 minutes
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Memphis, Tennessee

This case came to me in a personal letter from a woman who describes herself as "a responsible person, secretary in an executive office, and everything I am writing is true." The witness was out driving at 4:30 a.m. which she said was most unusual for her. "Looking back, I feel there was some reason that I left home at that time of the morning that tied in with the whole incident, and I honestly hope that I have the chance to see it again and react differently."

She is driving from her home, intending to stop at the local Pancake House for coffee when she sees three shining objects in the sky. She is so engrossed in watching the objects that she passes right by the coffee house. Suddenly the three objects disappear *into* "what looked like puffs of smoke, right before my eyes." A minute later one reappears "directly over the street in front of me, so close



Witness' sketch of the scene of her UFO sighting. She took shelter in the Admiral Benbow Inn.

Another World

And now here's a report that hits directly at the crux of the UFO mystery: Why was this UFO not seen by more people, where did it disappear to, how can a wingless craft fly noiselessly overhead witnesses at "a tree and a half height," and so slowly that even had it been a conventional aircraft other than a helicopter it could not possibly have remained airborne? This report came to the Center over the police "hotline" and is currently being investigated. The investigation has ruled out a hoax. Was this UFO, then, a technological achievement completely unknown to us or a purely paranormal event? The hypothesis of a hallucination poses far more questions than it answers! But let the witnesses speak for themselves:

TYPE: CE-I (CE-II)
DATE: March 30, 1981
TIME: 10-11 p.m.
DURATION: 20-30 minutes
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Alton, Illinois

"Pauline said, 'Look at that bright light!' I said, 'Yeah, it really is bright' and just when I said that this huge, bright, very intense light went from extremely bright down to very low. Pauline said, 'Would you look at that: they turned their light bulb out' and we both were laughing, but we soon stopped because we became very fascinated with that light. For now we could see it and some smaller lights below it, just hovering there in the same spot. We watched these lights hover over the trees for a good ten minutes or more, when all of a sudden they started going straight up in the air and then began coming across the tops of the trees toward us, but very slowly. I couldn't get over how slowly they were moving, maybe 10 m.p.h.

"The frogs had been croaking but they stopped, and the neighbor's dogs were barking very excitedly. I kept straining my ears to hear some sort of noise coming from it as it kept coming straight toward us. I couldn't see any wings. It kept getting closer until it was right over us."

To capsulate the rather long and detailed letter: When at its closest, the object appeared circular. It was black except for the lights on the circumference. The most unusual thing (other than that the object that I could have counted the lights on the bottom of the object, had I not panicked." She turns into the parking lt of the nearby Admiral Benbow Inn, rushes to the door and summons the night watchman. He also sees the object.

"I regret to say," she writes, "that I would not go back outside until I had been assured that it was gone." In the meantime, the watchman observed it hover over her car and then rise above the inn.

The sighting was reported to the police but, she writes, "It was obvious that the authorities were not going to acknowledge it...Needless to say, I stopped discussing this matter with anyone but can never forget it."

Despite the fact that the witness panicked and did not "stay for the whole show," the case is being followed up.

was noiseless, and had no wings nor tail!) was a large circular opening in the bottom of the black disc. Inside the opening, they saw "this churning motion of bright white light with yellow and orange colors in it...like gases rolling around in there." The UFO was more oval than round in shape, and was smooth-edged.

After all this slow motion, the craft now took off rapidly. Shortly thereafter a jet flew by, and shortly after that, a second strange craft was observed "coming across the trees toward us...a good five minutes later. We stood there and watched the second one pass over our heads. The same things happened. The frogs stopped and the dogs started barking, but there was no sound, no fumes, or exhaust from the object...Pauline and I wanted to know what each of us had seen. I think both of us were in another world, sort of, after seeing what we saw."

Another world indeed. Many witnesses have expressed that thought during the course of our investigations. Could it be that the physical perception of the UFO is in part an interface of our familiar world with another world...another dimension?

FROM FOREIGN LANDS

This account of a very interesting CE-II case came to us through the courtesy of Harry Griesberg, Coordinator of the Australian Centre for UFO Studies, whose experienced investigators, Basterfield, Chalder and Little, made the initial investigation. We understand that the investigation has continued. As with foreign cases in general, we cannot exercise control over investigations as we can with domestic UFO events. Here is a synopsis of the results of the investigation.

TYPE: CE -II
DATE: September 30, 1980
TIME: 1 a.m.
DURATION: 45 minutes
WITNESSES: 1
PLACE: Rosedale, Victoria, Australia

Awakened by a very unusual whistle, the bellowing of cattle and the noise of a panicking horse, a fifty-four-year old farmhand-caretaker noted an object pass between a shed and a cypress hedge at a height of eight to ten feet. As it passed behind the shed, the lower part of the object was obscured from view.

He soon abandoned the idea that it might be an aircraft in distress. No wings or tail were visible. The object was domed, about twenty-five feet in diameter and fifteen-feet high, with orange and blue lights on its surface and a white top. The lights did not illuminate the ground.

The object came to rest over an open 10,000 gallon water tank—an important point. On the day of the event the tank was reported full but on the morning after the UFO visit was found virtually empty. Ordinarily, it takes seventy-two hours to empty the tank by normal pipe means!

The witness dressed quickly, mounted his Suzuki motor bike and went to investigate. The object was still hovering over the ground near the tank. Stopping to open a gate he noted a cow "apparently disturbed and frothing at the mouth."

The witness approached the object to within fifty feet, but went no further because of the intensity of the noise. Then something happened which is unusual in the annals of ufology: the noise increased to "an awful scream" and a black tube-like appendage appeared around the base of the object, inflated to "tremendous size." The tube produced a mighty bang, accompanied by a blast of air and heat, which nearly knocked the caretaker off his bike. The object now lifted off and gradually ascended under the illumination of the bike's headlights.

Suddenly, when it was some thirty feet from where it had hovered, and still low to the ground, it fell silent but rained material down from its underside ...material which resembled "stones, cape weed, and cow paddies." The witness watched, stunned, as the craft faded away into the distance. When he arrived home he noted that his wristwatch had stopped at 1:10 a.m.

With the coming of daylight the witness returned to the site and found an eighteen-inch wide ring, twenty-eight feet in diameter, of grass that had been flattened in a counter-clockwise direction. The debris which had been seen falling from the craft was reported strewn along a definite path leading out of the ring. Oddly enough, the Australian report says nothing about retrieval or testing of this material; one can hope that this important step was taken and will be reported on later.

A second witness to the appearance of the craft may have been a truck driver who had stopped his vehicle nearby when the witness was inspecting the physical evidence. The driver said he had been followed "by an object" for some miles on his way toward Rosedale a few hours before. No details were given.

The farmhand experienced headaches, vomiting and diarrhea daily for a week following the event. He did not seek medical advice.

The Center will seek further information about this case from its Australian associate.

The Australian Centre for UFO Studies has available publications which you may obtain by writing:
ACUFOS, P.O. Box 546
Grosford, N.S.W. 2250, Australia

FOLLOW — UP

From *Frontiers of Science* (May-June 1981); DATE: March 17, 1981, PLACE: St. Helens, Oregon. Despite the media play this case received at the time, nothing further about it has come to the attention of the Center. No one has vouchsafed a verifiable explanation and thus, like so many other UFO events, it passes into the UFO archives having reached an apparent dead end. Later information, or newer theories, may in the future bring such cases once again to life. From *Frontiers of Science* (May-June, 1981); DATE: December 29, 1980; PLACE: Huffman, Texas. This case is very actively being followed up and monitored. MUFON investigators Schuessler and Holt have obtained all available medical records. Progress photographs are being taken to record the recovery process of all three witnesses. The hair loss experienced by both women and the slow, new growth is being monitored. Consultation with doctors concerned with the case continues.

Whether this was a true UFO or a military exercise has not yet been determined. The presence of the many helicopters following the "craft" is a puzzling stumbling block. Although the Freedom of Information Act is being invoked, little information can be expected from this channel if national security is involved. This case will be the subject of a paper to be delivered by Mr. Schuessler at the CUFOS conference (September 25-27, 1981) in Chicago.